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COUNTRY Indochina

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The Vietnamese Democratic Front (Mat Tran Dan Chu Vietnam) was formed in October 1948. It grew out of the anti-Communist Democratic Front (Mat Tran Dan Chu Phan Cong), which had been organized in 1947. Its leader is Nguyen Ba Tieu, Vice-President of the Vietnam Cach Minh Dong Minh Hoi (VNCMDMH)¹ and former leader of the Dai Viet Quoc Xa.
2. When the French occupied Hanoi in December 1946, Tieu realized that the policy of the Dai Viet was no longer effective, and that now the nationalists should unite to fight Communism. He therefore organized the Mat Tran Dan Chu Phan Cong, with the cooperation of former high-ranking instructors of the Dai Viet Quoc Xa and the VNCMDMH. These include Nguyen Huu, Nguyen Dang De and Nguyen Van Ly.
3. A few years later, seeing that the French were using the term Phan Cong (anti-Communist) to justify their presence in Indochina, Tieu changed the name of the Mat Tran Dan Chu Phan Cong to Mat Tran Dan Chu Vietnam to prevent any misunderstanding. This was only a change in name; the composition of the Front remained the same.
4. The policy of the Front is to unify nationalist forces to fight for the independence of Vietnam and for the happiness of the people. Since the establishment of the Front, its activities have remained secret. Although in general Tieu approves of the Bao Dai policy, he does not confide in Bao Dai because he feels a revolution is still in process. His plan is to carry on relations with various nationalist groups and to rally them to the Front, but to take action only when events take a definite turn.
5. Tieu is held in high esteem by political personalities in North Vietnam and the nationalists regard him with favor.

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6. Nationalist groups which have given him their cooperation include:

- a. The Le Ngoc Chan faction of the Vietnam Quoc Dan Dang²
- b. The Nguyen Cat Ngoc, aka Chuc Thanh, faction of the Dai Viet Quoc Dan Dang
- c. The Dai Viet Duy Dan which is represented in the Front by Nguyen Trong Hieu
- d. The Dan Chu Cap Tien represented by Thai Vinh Thinh.³

7. Although the Front does not yet represent an important force, it has little internal dissension and there is no opposition to Tieu.

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[] Comment. The Vietnamese Democratic Front is sometimes referred to by the following names: Dong Minh Hoi; Dai Viet Quoc Gia Xa Hoi; Dai Viet Dan Chu Xa Hoi; and Mat Tran Dan Chu Phan Cong.

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1. [] Comment. The VNCMDMF is a nationalist group which has little influence now. Apparently the Democratic Front is an attempt to gather the remnants of this group and regain some political power.

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2. [] Comment. Le Ngoc Chan is leader of the youth group in the Vietnam Quoc Dan Dang.

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3. [] Comment. This organization is unknown here. Obviously this report somewhat overemphasizes the importance of this nationalist group. Its primary interest lies in the fact that attempts are still being made to unify the many nationalist groups.

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